

2011 Indiana Deer Season Summary





Photo by: John Maxwell, IDNR

“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.”—Theodore Roosevelt

2011 Indiana Deer Harvest Summary

Contents

Overview.....	4
Bonus Antlerless Permits.....	5
Deer Harvested by Season.....	5
Harvest by Equipment Type.....	9
Harvest by License Status.....	10
Harvest Age and Sex Structure.....	10
Deer License Sales.....	12
Distribution of Harvest.....	12
Disease Monitoring.....	14



Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program

This program supports state fish and wildlife agencies to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, their habitats, and the hunting, sport fishing and recreational boating opportunities they provide. This program was initiated in 1937 as the Federal Aid in Wildlife Act and created a system where by taxes are paid on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment by the public who hunts. Today this excise tax generates over a hundred million dollars each year that are dedicated to state wildlife restoration and management projects across the United States.



Overview

The 2011 Indiana deer hunting season was comprised of four seasons: Early Archery (Oct. 1 to Nov. 27), Firearms (Nov. 12 to Nov. 27), Muzzleloader (Dec. 3-18), and Late Archery (Dec. 3 to Jan. 1). Additionally, there was a youth-only season Sept. 24-25 that was open to youth age 17 or younger who was accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old. The youth could take one either sex deer during this special season.

The statewide archery bag limit was two deer. Hunters could take one deer per license for a total of either two antlerless deer or one antlered and one antlerless deer. A hunter could take only one antlered deer during all statewide seasons combined using archery, firearm, or muzzleloader licenses. This was the 15th year the crossbow was legal for hunting by non-disabled hunters under an archery license. The crossbow was eligible for use only during the late archery season and could be used for deer of either sex.



Archers could harvest deer in designated urban zones that did not count towards any other statewide bag limit. Each extra urban zone deer required a separate extra archery, archery, or bonus antlerless deer license. The archery season in the urban deer zone opened two weeks prior to the opening of the early archery season (Sept. 15 to Nov. 27), and continued again into January (Dec. 3 to Jan. 1). Archers were allowed to harvest up to either four antlerless deer or three antlerless and one antlered deer during this period. Any deer harvested during this period were in addition to all other bag limits.

The bag limit during firearms season was one antlered deer, and the bag limit for the muzzleloader season was one either-sex deer (maximum of one antlered deer harvested per hunter). A single firearms license was required to hunt with any firearm (shotgun, muzzleloader, rifle, or handgun) during the firearms season, and a muzzleloader license (separate from the firearms license) was required to hunt during the muzzleloader season.

The resident deer license fee was \$24 and the nonresident fee was \$150. When an agricultural advantage could be gained, resident landowners who hunted on land they owned were exempt from purchasing deer licenses, as were lessees who farmed the land.

Special public hunts were held at Muscatatuck and Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuges, Naval Surface Activity Crane, Newport Chemical Depot, and Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center.

Bonus Antlerless Permits

An unlimited number of bonus antlerless permits were available at every deer license vendor statewide, and each permit could be used in any county. County bag limits ranged from A to 8 (Figure 1). Permits were available to both resident and non-resident hunters.

Each permit was valid for one antlerless deer, and hunters were allowed to take as many bonus antlerless deer as desired, as long as the county antlerless bag limits were observed.

Bonus antlerless permits cost \$24 and \$150 for the first permit for residents and nonresidents, respectively. The second and each additional permit was \$15 for residents and \$24 for nonresidents. Bonus antlerless permits could be used during all deer hunting seasons except for “A”-designated counties, where the license could only be used during the last four days of the firearms season (Nov. 24 to Nov. 27) plus the late archery and muzzleloader seasons.



Figure 1. Antlerless deer bag limits in 2011.

Deer Harvested by Season

A total of 129,018 deer were legally harvested in Indiana during the 2011 season (Figure 2). This harvest was 4% lower than the 134,004 deer harvested during the 2010 season. The antlered deer harvest of 50,717 was 4% less than the 53,007 harvested last year. The antlerless harvest of 78,301 was 3% less than the 80,997 harvested in 2010. In 2011, the harvest for total deer and antlerless deer ranks as the fourth highest reported kill for each category in history. The antlered harvest ranks seventh all-time.

Approximately 2.99 million deer have been legally harvested during the past 60 deer hunting seasons in Indiana.

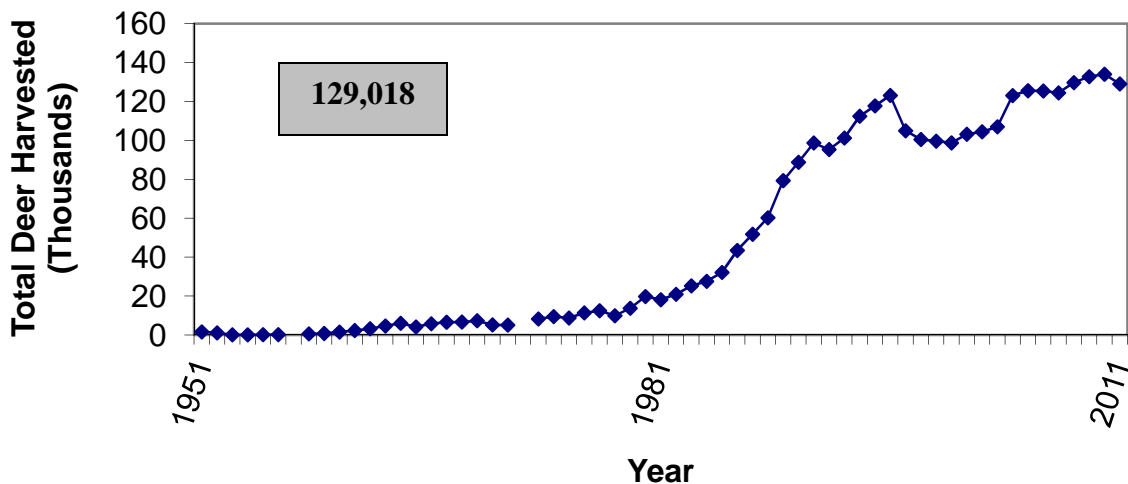


Figure 2. The number of deer harvested in Indiana deer hunting seasons 1951-2011.

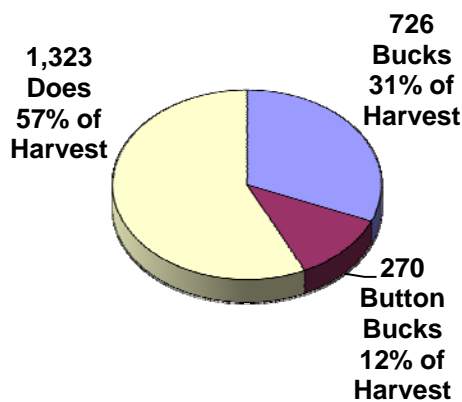


Figure 3. 2011 Youth Season harvest composition

The hunting season began with urban deer zones (Sept. 15) followed by a youth only weekend (Sept. 25-26). This season was created in 2006 and allowed youths 15 years and younger to harvest one antlerless deer. It was changed in 2009 to include all youths 17 years and younger. This year was the 2nd year youths could harvest an antlered deer during this season. A total of 2,319 deer were harvested in 2011 during this season, down 0.8% from the 2,337 from 2010. This season resulted in 2% of the total harvest (Table 1). Bucks made up 31% of the harvest, while 12% of the harvest was comprised of button bucks (Figure 3).

The early archery season harvest (including the early Urban Deer Zones) of 26,021 deer comprised 20% of the total harvest and was just over 1% less than the 26,342 harvested in 2010 (Table 1). The late archery season comprised 1% of the total harvest, similar to the 2010 season. The combined archery seasons yielded 27,747 deer, a decrease of 1% from the 28,026 harvested in 2010. Antlerless deer comprised 68% of the total archery harvest, up 1 percentage point from 2010. Antlerless harvest in early archery season was 67%, while in late archery it was 81% (Figure 4). Does made up 57% of the total harvest in early archery season and nearly 70% of the harvest in late archery season. The late urban season that was instituted for the first time this year accounted for a total of 63 deer, 87% of which were antlerless.



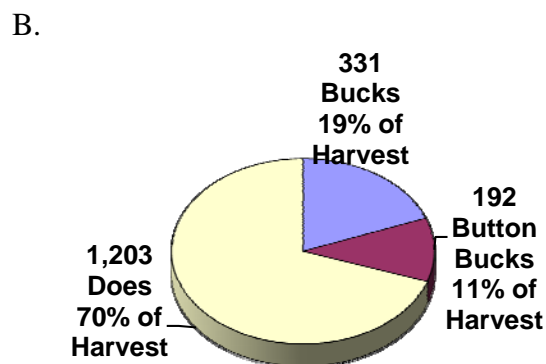
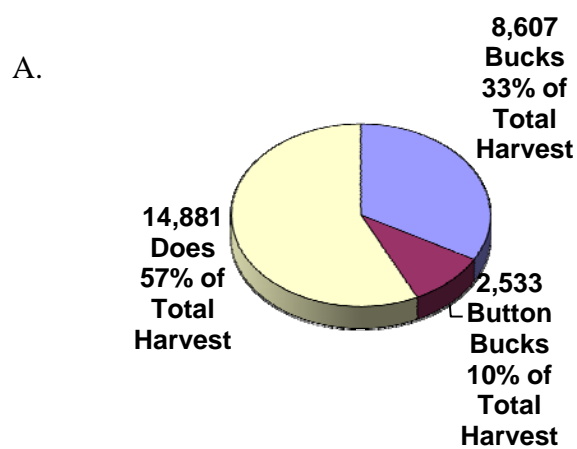


Figure 4. A. Early Archery harvest and B. Late Archery harvest composition in 2011

Table 1. Number of deer harvested in each segment of the 2011 Indiana deer hunting season. Percent of total harvest in parentheses (totals may not be exactly 100 due to rounding).

Season	Number of deer harvested		
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Youth season (24-25 Sept)	726 (1)	1,593 (2)	2,319 (2)
Early Archery* (1 Oct - 27 Nov)	8,607 (17)	17,414 (22)	26,021 (20)
Firearms (12-27 Nov)	37,281 (74)	42,436 (54)	79,717 (62)
Muzzleloader (3-18 Dec)	3,772 (7)	15,463 (20)	19,235 (15)
Late Archery* (3 Dec - 1 Jan)	331 (1)	1,395 (2)	1,726 (1)
Totals	50,717	78,301	129,018

*Includes Urban Deer Zones

The firearms season harvest of 79,717 deer was a decrease of nearly 7.5% from the 86,241 deer harvested in 2010 and comprised 62% of the total harvest (Table 1). The antlerless harvest of 42,436 was 8% less than the 2010 antlerless harvest of 46,243, while the antlered harvest of 37,281 was 6% less than the antlered deer harvest in 2010 (39,818). Antlered deer made up at least half of the total harvest on only the first five days of firearm season, while antlerless deer outnumbered antlered deer during the remaining 11 days of the season (Table 2). During the opening weekend of firearms season, 42% of the total firearm season harvest occurred, down slightly from 44% in 2010. Opening weekend contributed to 26% of the statewide total harvest for all seasons, which is 2 percentage points less than the opening weekend harvest from 2010. Antlerless deer comprised 54% (82% of which were does) of the firearm season harvest (Figure 5).

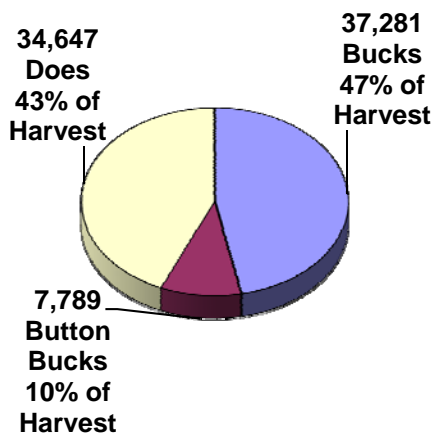


Figure 5. 2011 Firearms season harvest composition

Date	Day	Antlered		Antlerless		Total	
		N	Daily %	N	Daily %	N	Total %
12 November	Sat	14,405	56	11,396	44	25,801	32
13 November	Sun	4,302	53	3,857	47	8,159	10
14 November	Mon	1,374	54	1,192	46	2,566	3
15 November	Tue	1,625	51	1,577	49	3,202	4
16 November	Wed	1,787	50	1,779	50	3,566	4
17 November	Thu	1,817	46	2,116	54	3,933	5
18 November	Fri	1,754	43	2,322	57	4,076	5
19 November	Sat	3,066	42	4,245	58	7,311	9
20 November	Sun	1,656	43	2,229	57	3,885	5
21 November	Mon	634	39	986	61	1,620	2
22 November	Tue	277	34	535	66	812	1
23 November	Wed	867	36	1,525	64	2,392	3
24 November	Thu	1,052	35	1,991	65	3,043	4
25 November	Fri	1,437	30	3,405	70	4,842	6
26 November	Sat	1,219	29	3,029	71	4,248	5
27 November	Sun	422	31	956	69	1,378	2
Totals*		37,694		43,140		80,834	100

* Totals differ from those in previous table because date of harvest is not known for some registered deer and this table includes deer from both the firearms season and the last 16 days of the early archery season.

The muzzleloader season harvest of 19,235 comprised 15% of the total harvest, up 2 percentage points from last year (Table 1). This year's muzzleloader season harvest was 10.5% higher than the 2010 muzzleloader harvest (17,400). As in years past, a large percentage of the deer harvested during the muzzleloader season were antlerless (81%) (Figure 6).

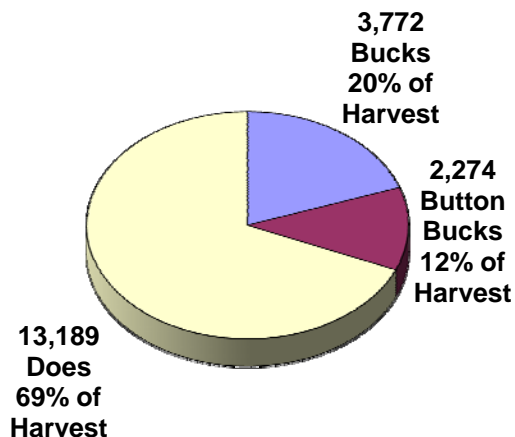


Figure 6. 2011 Muzzleloader season harvest composition



Harvest by Equipment Type

Six types of equipment were legal for hunting deer during 2011: bows, shotguns, muzzleloaders, handguns, crossbows, and rifles. Rifle cartridges were restricted to .357 diameter or larger bullet, and case length must be between 1.16 and 1.625 inches. These types of equipment accounted for 21%, 42%, 26%, 1%, 1%, and 9% of the total deer harvest, respectively (Figure 7). Shotgun harvest decreased 12% from 2010. Harvest by muzzleloader was nearly equal to 2010, while bow and handgun decreased 2% and 22% from 2010, respectively (Table 3).

The total crossbow harvest for the year, including deer taken on disabled hunter crossbow permits, was 1,091 animals, an 18% increase from 2010. During the late archery season, the crossbow harvest was 248 deer, compared with 172 in 2010 and 182 in 2009 (Table 3). Nearly 27% of deer taken in the first late urban deer season were taken with crossbows.

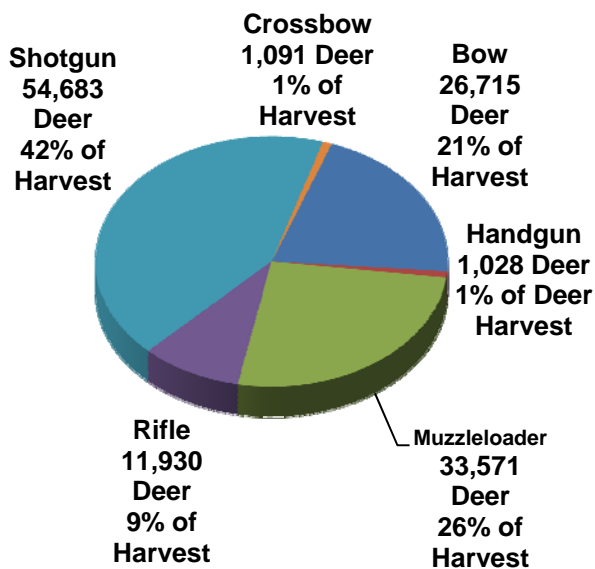


Figure 7. 2011 harvest by equipment type in Indiana

Table 3. Number of deer harvested by type of legal hunting equipment during the 2006-2011 seasons. Approximate percent of total harvest shown in parentheses.

Equipment type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Bow*	26,723 (21)	26,187 (21)	26,369 (20)	28,497 (21)	27,186 (20)	26,715 (21)
Shotgun	66,304 (53)	63,919 (51)	68,520 (53)	65,839 (50)	61,920 (46)	54,683 (42)
Muzzleloader	30,247 (24)	30,740 (25)	30,295 (23)	32,745 (25)	33,527 (25)	33,571 (26)
Handgun	1,386 (1)	1,615 (1)	1,949 (2)	1,932 (1)	1,318 (1)	1,028 (1)
Rifle	x	1,203 (1)	1,788 (1)	2,809 (2)	9,125 (7)	11,930 (9)
Crossbow						
Disabled	591 (0)	609 (0)	668 (1)	748 (1)	756 (1)	843 (1)
Late archery	130 (0)	154 (0)	159 (0)	182 (0)	172 (0)	248 (0)
Totals	124,562	124,427	129,748	132,752	134,004	129,018

* Crossbow harvest is not included in bow harvest. Values within this table do not exactly equal those tallied by season (page 3) due to the fact that multiple equipment types can be used during the firearm season. Muzzleloaders may also be used during both the firearm and muzzleloader season. Additionally, differences arise due to the different methods required to analyze data when either the equipment or the season is unknown.

Harvest by License Status

Licensed resident hunters (lifetime, resident, and youth license holders) accounted for over 80% of the total deer harvest (Table 4). Licensed nonresident hunters harvested over 2% of the total harvest. Hunters with a regular yearly deer hunting license (resident plus non-resident) took only ~46% of the total deer harvest; hunters not paying the full yearly price (i.e. lifetime license holders, youth license holders, landowners/tenants, and military personnel) took over 54% of the total harvest. Landowners and lessees who hunted on their own land without a license and military personnel on official leave status accounted for ~17% of the total deer harvest. Of the deer harvested by license-exempt hunters, nearly 98% were taken by landowners/tenants while only 2% by military personnel on leave.

Table 4. Harvest distribution of deer by license type during 2011 hunting season.

License Status	Deer Harvested	Percent of Harvest
Resident	55,802	43.25
Lifetime	35,780	27.73
Land Owner	21,551	16.70
Youth	12,503	9.69
Nonresident	2,965	2.30
Military	417	0.32
Total	129,018	100.0

Harvest Age and Sex Structure

The age and sex structure of the 2011 deer harvest was 39% adult males (antlered bucks), 29% adult females, 10% male fawns (button bucks), and 21% female fawns (Table 5). The proportion of female fawns in the harvest was reported higher this year than in previous seasons, which is determined through check station observations. About 39% of the antlered bucks and 36% of the adult does harvested during 2011 were yearlings (1.5 years old) (Figure 8).

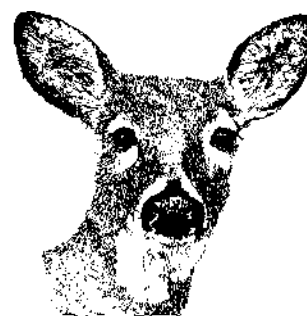


Table 5. Sex and age structure of the Indiana deer harvest during 1987-2011, as determined from mandatory check stations.

Year	Adults		Fawns		Total
	Males (%)	Females (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	
1987	29,530 (57)	11,139 (21)	6,164 (12)	4,945 (10)	51,778
1988	34,358(57)	13,170 (22)	7,050 (12)	5,656 (10)	60,234
1989	40,503 (51)	19,464 (24)	10,737 (14)	8,614 (11)	79,318
1990	43,080 (48)	23,680 (27)	12,373 (14)	9,630 (11)	88,763
1991	41,593 (42)	31,211 (32)	14,626 (15)	11,253 (11)	98,683
1992	43,508 (46)	25,387 (27)	14,262 (15)	12,157 (13)*	95,314
1993	44,424 (44)	27,704 (27)	14,751 (15)	14,335 (14)*	101,214
1994	50,812 (45)	32,466 (29)	15,487 (14)	13,651 (12)*	112,416
1995	47,098 (40)	40,946 (35)	16,398 (14)	13,287 (11)*	117,729
1996	47,315 (38)	39,913 (32)	17,307 (14)	18,551 (15)*	123,086
1997	42,537 (41)	35,163 (34)	14,039 (13)	13,198 (12)*	104,937
1998	44,955 (45)	30,711 (31)	12,257 (12)	12,538 (12)*	100,461
1999	46,371 (46)	30,474 (31)	11,645 (12)	11,129 (11)*	99,618
2000	44,621 (45)	31,986 (32)	11,072 (11)	11,046 (11)*	98,725
2001	48,357 (47)	31,806 (31)	11,230 (11)	11,770 (11)*	103,163
2002	47,177 (45)	35,357 (34)	11,291 (11)	10,603 (10)*	104,428
2003	49,533 (46)	36,303 (34)	10,262 (10)	10,887 (10)*	106,986
2004	54,743 (44)	41,749 (34)	12,501 (10)	14,065 (11)*	123,058
2005	52,488 (42)	44,286 (35)	13,030 (10)	15,722 (13)*	125,526
2006	49,097 (39)	45,257 (36)	13,688 (11)	17,339 (14)*	125,381
2007	49,375 (40)	44,514 (36)	13,313 (11)	17,225 (14)*	124,427
2008	50,845 (39)	46,666 (36)	13,083 (11)	19,154 (15)*	129,748
2009	52,878 (40)	48,222 (36)	13,040 (10)	18,291 (14)*	132,431
2010	53,007 (40)	49,911 (37)	13,367 (10)	17,719 (13)*	134,004
2011	50,717 (39)	37,776 (29)	13,058 (10)	27,467 (21)*	129,018

* Number of adult and fawn females is projected from the % fawns of all females aged at the biological check stations (not from the ratio of fawn doe to fawn bucks in the total deer harvest).

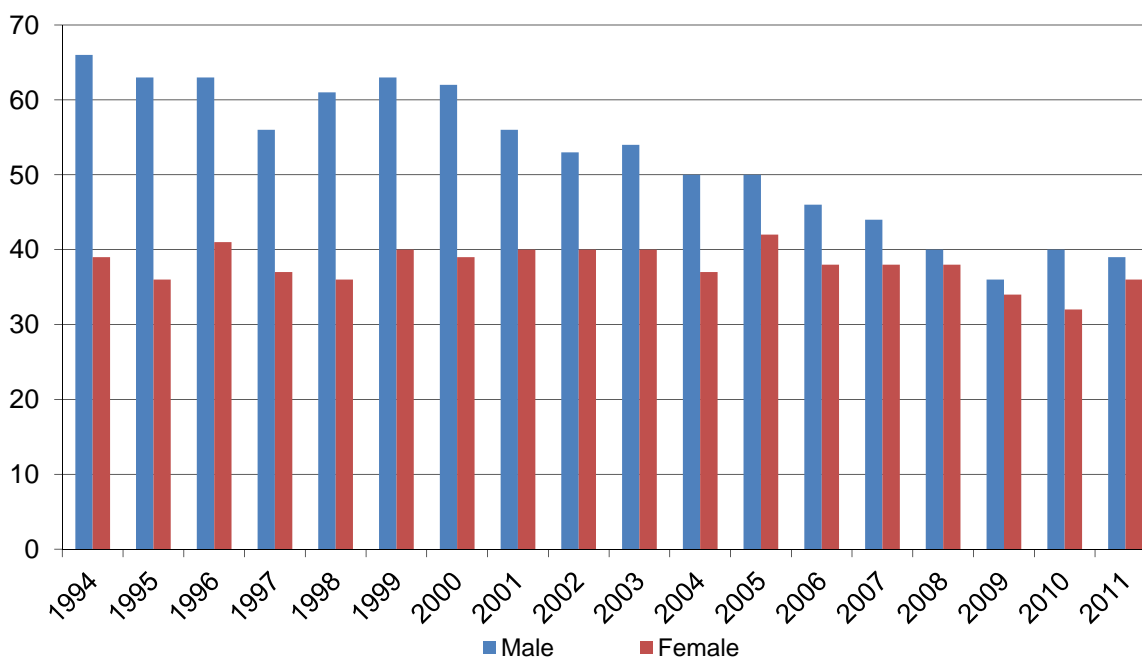


Figure 8. Proportion of male and female yearlings in the harvest (1.5 years old), as determined by aging during the first weekend of the firearms season, for years 1994-2011.

Deer License Sales

Deer license sales increased this year from 2010 by 3%, up from 268,485 (Table 6). Youth licenses increased nearly 2% from 2010. License sales from all categories were up, with military/refuge licenses and muzzleloader licenses showing the greatest increases at 23.5% and 9%, respectively. Resident Firearm licenses comprised the largest proportion deer licenses sold (37%), followed by Bonus Antlerless licenses (26.5%).

Table 6. Deer license sales in Indiana by type, 2009-2011*.

	2009	2010	2011
Resident Archery/Extra Archery	58,751	59,473	60,844**
Resident Firearm	105,158	102,626	103,284
Resident Muzzleloader	23,363	21,975	23,956
Resident Military/Refuge	2,721	2,541	3,138
Resident Bonus Antlerless	71,515	70,673	73,287
Nonresident	10,443	11,197	11,889
Youth	38,254	38,330	39,030
Total (excluding Youth)	271,951	268,485	276,398

*Total numbers subject to change slightly via refunds or voids

**Includes urban deer zone licenses sold in January



Distribution of the Harvest

The number of deer harvested in individual counties ranged from 90 in Tipton County to 3,532 in Steuben County (Table 7). Harvest exceeded 1,000 deer in 62 counties; 2,000 deer in 14 counties; and 3,000 deer in four counties. The antlered buck harvest exceeded 1,000 in five counties (down from nine in 2010), while the antlerless harvest exceeded 1,000 deer in 31 counties compared with 34 in 2010. Antlerless deer comprised at least 50% of the total harvest in 91 of the state's 92 counties in 2011 compared with 89 counties in 2010. The counties with the highest harvests were Steuben, Switzerland, Kosciusko Noble, Dearborn, Franklin, Harrison, Washington, Parke, and Lagrange. The counties with the lowest harvests were Tipton, Benton, Hancock, Marion, Blackford, Rush, Clinton, Shelby, Howard, and Boone.

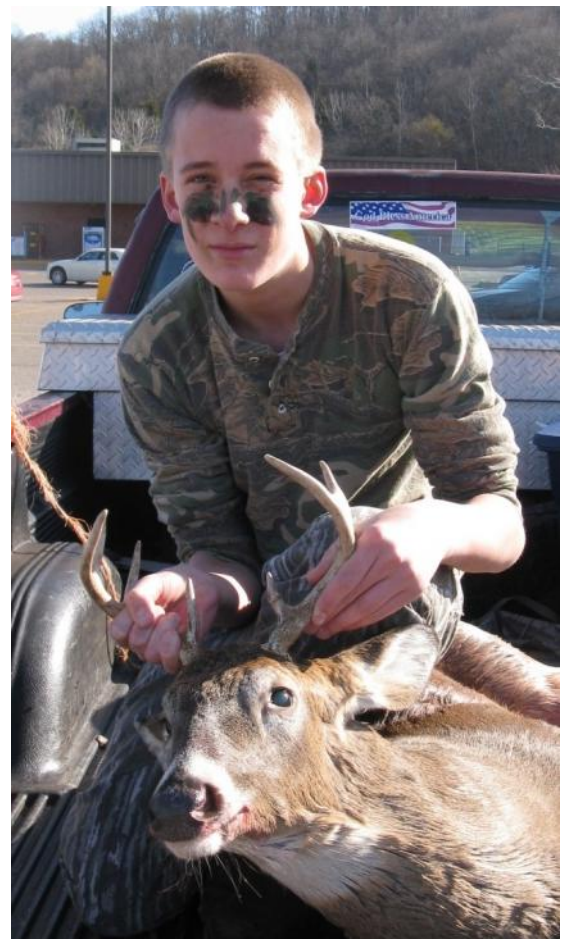


Table 6. Number of deer harvested in each Indiana county during 2011 (after adjustment for unknowns).

<u>Number Harvested</u>				<u>Number Harvested</u>			
County	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	County	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Adams	209	279	488	Lawrence	828	1,146	1,974
Allen	684	990	1,674	Madison	217	360	577
Bartholomew	455	664	1,119	Marion	152	177	329
Benton	90	54	144	Marshall	920	1,582	2,502
Blackford	142	192	334	Martin	706	950	1,656
Boone	216	244	460	Miami	578	883	1,461
Brown	640	1,037	1,677	Monroe	523	838	1,361
Carroll	353	562	915	Montgomery	515	689	1,204
Cass	555	794	1,349	Morgan	508	736	1,244
Clark	651	1,051	1,702	Newton	413	550	963
Clay	505	599	1,104	Noble	989	2,036	3,025
Clinton	164	200	364	Ohio	396	733	1,129
Crawford	771	1,154	1,925	Orange	797	1,141	1,938
Daviess	411	701	1,112	Owen	715	950	1,665
Dearborn	979	1,906	2,885	Parke	960	1,601	2,561
Decatur	282	445	727	Perry	736	1,036	1,772
DeKalb	894	1,414	2,308	Pike	695	862	1,557
Delaware	314	431	745	Porter	523	809	1,332
Dubois	698	1,173	1,871	Posey	554	870	1,424
Elkhart	553	958	1,511	Pulaski	675	1,046	1,721
Fayette	353	502	855	Putnam	892	1,325	2,217
Floyd	288	424	712	Randolph	261	406	667
Fountain	575	959	1,534	Ripley	744	1,091	1,835
Franklin	1,008	1,868	2,876	Rush	172	191	363
Fulton	713	1,115	1,828	St. Joseph	527	849	1,376
Gibson	572	878	1,450	Scott	360	561	921
Grant	352	470	822	Shelby	168	228	396
Greene	778	1,200	1,978	Spencer	583	715	1,298
Hamilton	200	316	516	Starke	636	1,081	1,717
Hancock	112	174	286	Steuben	1,227	2,305	3,532
Harrison	1,083	1,597	2,680	Sullivan	840	1,077	1,917
Hendricks	284	335	619	Switzerland	1,148	2,161	3,309
Henry	246	330	576	Tippecanoe	600	685	1,285
Howard	161	289	450	Tipton	43	47	90
Huntington	491	664	1,155	Union	233	360	593
Jackson	761	1,206	1,967	Vanderburgh	340	430	770
Jasper	588	909	1,497	Vermillion	581	799	1,380
Jay	342	578	920	Vigo	625	882	1,507
Jefferson	891	1,364	2,255	Wabash	701	1,097	1,798
Jennings	745	1,217	1,962	Warren	515	756	1,271
Johnson	277	408	685	Warrick	568	787	1,355
Knox	359	387	746	Washington	953	1,652	2,605
Kosciusko	1,079	2,044	3,123	Wayne	482	639	1,121
Lagrange	807	1,716	2,523	Wells	225	248	473
Lake	485	572	1,057	White	465	768	1,233
La Porte	792	1,037	1,829	Whitley	522	757	1,279

* Totals may be off +/- 1 due to rounding during partitioning of harvested deer of unknown sex or county.

Disease Monitoring

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease

Nine counties received credible reports of dead or dying deer due to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in Indiana in 2011 (Figure 9). EHD was confirmed through laboratory testing in Vermillion and Posey County. Overall impact from this outbreak appears to be minimal. The last major outbreak of EHD in Indiana occurred in 2007, and had far greater impact on the deer herd than the event seen this year.

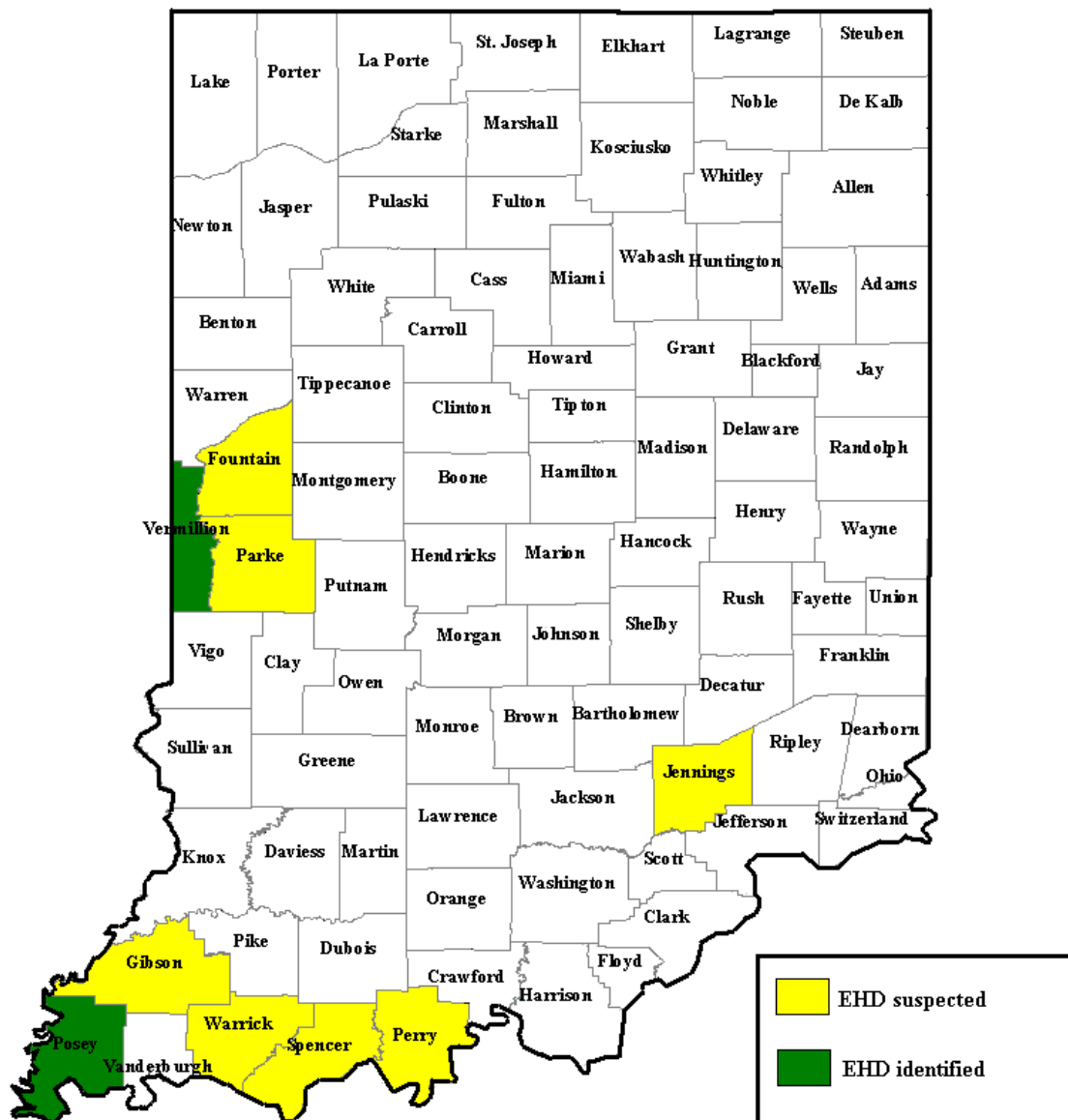


Figure 9. Counties in Indiana with reports of EHD in 2011.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is one of a group of diseases called Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, which is a variant of scrapie in sheep and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. The agents of CWD are called prions which are abnormal, protease-resistant forms of cellular proteins normally synthesized in the central nervous system and lymphoid tissues. Prions that cause CWD are highly resistant to heat or disinfectant. No study has ever proven that CWD is transmissible to humans.

CWD has been reported in Wisconsin, Illinois, West Virginia, and most recently Missouri, among other states. In 2002, Indiana created a monitoring program to detect the presence of CWD, which focused on removing the obex or the retropharyngeal gland from random hunter harvested deer throughout the state, deemed active surveillance. Reports of outwardly noticeable sick deer have also been tested, named targeted surveillance. This monitoring continues today, and well as testing random samples of road killed deer which was instituted in 2007.

Results from the Division of Fish and Wildlife's 2011 CWD sampling failed to detect the presence of CWD in 869 deer sampled from hunter harvested and road killed deer. CWD has not been detected in over 12,200 deer during this monitoring period.

Bovine Tuberculosis

The Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife, along with the help of the Indiana Division of Law Enforcement, Indiana Board of Animal Health, and the United States Department of Agriculture, participated in the collection and testing of free ranging white-tailed deer for Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in 2011. A total of 366 deer were sampled from Franklin, Fayette, and Dearborn County, and culturing from the National Veterinary Services Laboratory is complete and failed to detect the presence of TB in any free ranging deer this year. Indiana has tested over 900 deer for TB during the past three years and has failed to detect the presence of TB in the free ranging deer herd.

For more information on deer health, visit www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild.

